

## “Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010”

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 President Obama signed this act into law. This affects thousands of National Guard Soldiers and their educational benefits. The bottom line is that most Title 32 Soldiers will now be eligible for the Post 9/11 (Ch. 33) GI Bill and/or the transferability of benefits to dependents. Some of the summary highlights of the new act include:

- a. Where previously limited to Title 10 time, most Title 32 time will now qualify for the Ch. 33. (Title 32 ADOS will not qualify)
- b. Monthly housing allowance will be prorated on the rate of pursuit at school. (Previously full month was paid regardless of rate of pursuit)
- c. Solely distance learning will be paid monthly housing allowance at the rate of 50% of the national average BAH rate. (Previously monthly allowance was not paid for solely distance learning)
- d. Soldiers can receive reimbursement for more than one license and certification test. (Previously it only paid for one)
- e. Program now allows payments for non-degree granting programs such as OJT, apprenticeship, correspondence and flight training. (Previously only paid for degree granting programs.)
- f. Soldiers retiring before the Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 signing will still be ineligible to transfer benefits to dependents.

While there are some challenges left to be addressed, such as the clarification of qualifying Title 32 time other than AGR and transferability issues for Soldiers retiring between now and 30Sep2011, NGB will continue to meet with VA and DoD to address these issues. The Education Services Office will forward updates as they are received.